



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

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Man pleads guilty to possession and distribution of child pornography following an ICE investigation

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico- A 33-year-old predator pleaded guilty here Monday following a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) investigation that revealed that he possessed and distributed child pornography.

Harry Alejandro-Morales, of Bayamon, Puerto Rico, was indicted on Jan. 12, 2006 by a federal grand jury. The ICE investigation into the case was based on a referral by the ICE Cyber Crimes Center.

On Feb. 17, 2005, ICE special agents executed a federal search warrant at Alejandro-Morales' residence and seized a computer and other electronic storage media devices. Subsequent forensic analysis of Alejandro-Morales' computer revealed more than 1000 images depicting child pornography. ICE special agents also discovered that he distributed the child pornography via the Internet.

"These monsters should know that we are looking for them," said Lydia St. John-Mellado, special agent-in-charge of ICE in Puerto Rico. "ICE will continue using all its resources and those of our sister agencies to bring to justice those who hurt the most vulnerable segment of our society—our children."

Manufacturing, distributing and possessing child pornography carries a penalty of 30, 20 or 10 years in prison, respectively. The manufacturing of child pornography also carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years.

This arrest was part of a nationwide initiative known as Operation Predator. Operation Predator protects our children from sexual predators, including those who travel across continents to have sex with minors. Internet child pornographers and criminal alien sex offenders and child traffickers are also a priority for ICE. Since the initiative was launched in July of 2003, there have been more than 7,500 individuals arrested nationwide.

ICE encourages anyone who wants to report suspicious activity of suspected child predators and suspicious activity through our toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.